A CONCISE

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ACCOUNT

OF THE

PROVINCES

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

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WITH

Some genuine Copies and Extracts from Letters, lately received from Perſons of Character and Eminence there, containing Information for ſuch as intend to emigrate to that Country.

M,DCC,LXXXIV.

BRITISH MUSEUM

AMERICA.

THIS great continent, frequently denominated the *new world*, extends from the 80th degree north, to the 56th degree ſouth latitude, and where its breadth is known, from the 35th to the 36th degree of weſt longitude, from London, ſtretching between 8 and 9000 miles in length, and in its greateſt breadth 3690. It ſees both hemiſpheres, has two ſummers and a double winter, and enjoys all the variety of climates which the earth affords. It is waſhed by the two great oceans. To the eaſtward it has the Atlantic, which divides it from Europe and Africa, to the weſt it has the Pacific or Great South Sea, by which it is ſeparated from Aſia. By theſe ſeas it carries on a direct commerce with the other three parts of the world. It is univerſally known that Columbus in the year 1491 was the firſt from Europe, who diſcovered South America; and Sebaſtian Cabot about ſix years after, ſailed from Britain, and diſcovered North America. This much in general.

Nova Scotia, or New Scotland.

IT is bounded by the river St. Laurence on the north, by the gulph of St. Laurence and the Atlantic ocean on the eaſt, by the ſame ocean on the ſouth, and by Canada and New England on the weſt. It is ſituate in

43 to 49 degrees north latitude, and in 60 to 67 degrees weſt longitude, breadth 150, and length 250 miles. Nova Scotia or New Scotland, by which is at preſent to be underſtood all the coaſt of 300 leagues in length, contained between the limits of New England and the ſouth coaſt of the river St. Laurence, ſeemed at firſt to have comprehended only the great triangular peninſula lying nearly in the middle of this ſpace. This peninſula which the French called Acadie, is extremely well ſituated for the ſhips which come from the Caribbees to water at. It offers them a great number of excellent ports, in which ſhips may anchor and go out of with all winds. There is a great quantity of cod upon the coaſt, and ſtill more upon ſmall banks at the diſtance of a few leagues. The ſoil, which is very gravelly, is extremely fit for drying the cod: It abounds beſides with good wood, and land fit for ſeveral ſorts of cultivation, and extremely well ſituated for the fur-trade of the neighbouring continent. Halifax is and (apparently) will continue to be the principal town in this province; an advantage it owes to encouragements laviſhed upon it by Britain. Their expence for this ſettlement from its firſt foundation to the year 1769, amounted to more than 3937 l 10 s per annum. Such favours were not ill beſtowed upon a city, which from its ſituation is the natural rendezvous of both the land and ſea forces which Great Britain ſometimes thinks herſelf obliged to maintain in America, as well for the defence of her fiſheries and the protection of her ſugar iſlands, as for the purpoſe of maintaining her connections with her northern colonies. Halifax indeed derives more of its ſplendor from the motion and activity which is conſtantly kept up in its ports, than either from its cultivation, which has hitherto been too much neglected,

glected, or from its fiſheries, which may (if properly improved) become a conſtant ſource of wealth to new ſetlers, &c.

Lunenburgh, the ſecond ſettlement, was founded a few years ago by 800 Germans who moved from Halifax. At firſt it did not promiſe much ſucceſs, but it is conſiderably improved by the unremitted induſtry of ſaid Germans, who contented with improving and defending their own territory, ſeldom go out of it, but to cultivate others which they are not ambitious to conquer; a diſpoſition and conduct truly amiable and worthy the imitation of all the human race.

There are other ſettlements in this province which wait for an increaſe of inhabitants to fill and improve them, and which promiſe a rich return to the improvers, particularly in the article of raiſing flax, which the ſoil and climate of Nova Scotia is ſpecially adapted for producing; this circumſtance, if properly underſtood and attended to, might be of great and laſting advantage both to Britain and Ireland, eſpecially to the linen manufacturers in theſe nations.

New-England.

IT is ſituated between 41 and 49 degrees north latitude and between 67 and 74 degrees weſt longitude; it is bounded by New Scotland on the north eaſt, by Canada on the weſt, by New York on the ſouth, by the Atlantic ocean on the eaſt; and is divided into four quarters, viz.

Diviſions.	*Provinces.*	*Chief-Towns.*
The north diviſion	Newhampſhire	Portſmouth

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Diviſions.	*Provinces.*	*Chief-Towns.*
The middle-diviſion	Maſſachuſets bay	Boſton
The ſouth diviſion	Rhode Iſland, &c.	Newport
The weſt diviſion	Connecticut	New London

BOSTON, the capital of New England, is ſituated in a peninſula, about four miles long, at the bottom of the fine bay of Maſſachuſet, which reaches about eight miles within land. The opening of the bay is ſheltered from the impetuoſity of the waves by a number of rocks which riſe above the water; and by twelve ſmall Iſlands, the greater part of which are fruitful and inhabited. Theſe dykes and natural ramparts will not allow more than three ſhips to come in together. At the end of the laſt century, a regular citadel named Fort-William was erected in one of the Iſlands upon this narrow channel; there are one hundred pieces of cannon carrying forty two pounders each upon it, which are diſpoſed in ſuch a manner that they can batter a ſhip fore and aft before it is poſſible for her to bring her guns to bear; a league further on, there is a very high light-houſe, the ſignals from which, in caſe of an invaſion, are perceived and repeated by the fortreſſes along the whole coaſt; at the ſame that Boſton has her own light-houſes, which ſpread the alarm to all the inland country, except in the caſe of a very thick fog, which a few ſhips may take advantage of to get into ſome of the ſmaller iſlands. The town has always five or ſix hours to prepare for the reception of the enemy, and to get together ten thouſand militia, which can be raiſed at four and twenty hours notice. If a fleet ſhould ever be able to paſs the artillery of Fort-William, it would infallibly be ſtopped by a couple of batteries, which being erected to the north and ſouth of the place, command the whole bay, and would give time for all the veſſels and commercial ſtores to be ſheltered from cannon ſhot in the river Charles.

Boſton

Boſton port is large enough for ſix hundred veſſels to anchor in ſafely and commodiouſly. There is a magnificent pier conſtructed, far enough advanced in the ſea for the ſhips to unload their cargo without the aſſiſtance of a lighter, and to diſcharge them into the warehouſes which are ranged on the north ſide. At the extremity of the pier, the town appears, built in the form of a creſcent, round the harbour; according to the bills of mortality, which are become with reaſon the only rule of political arithmetic, it contains about 30,000 inhabitants, compoſed of preſbyterians, church of England men, quakers, anabaptiſts and French refugees. The houſes, furniture, dreſs, food, converſation, cuſtoms and manners, are ſo exactly ſimilar to the mode of living in London, that it is impoſſible to find any other difference but that which ariſes from the overgrown population of large capitals.

The clearing of the lands in New England is not done by chance, as in the other provinces: from the firſt, the inhabitants of this province were ſubjected to laws, which are ſtill religiouſly obſerved. No citizen, whatever, has the liberty of ſettling, even upon unoccupied land. The government, which was deſirous of preſerving all its members from the inroads of the ſavages, and that they ſhould be at hand to partake of the ſuccours of a well regulated ſociety, hath ordered that whole villages ſhould be formed at once. As ſoon as ſixty families offer to build a church, maintain a clergyman, and pay a ſchoolmaſter, the general congreſs allots them a ſituation, and permits them to have two repreſentatives in the legiſlative body of the colony. The diſtrict aſſigned them, always borders upon the lands already cleared, and generally contains ſix thouſand ſquare acres. Theſe new people chooſe out the ſpot moſt convenient for their reſpective habitations, and it

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is uſually of a ſquare figure : the church is placed in the centre, and the coloniſts dividing the land among themſelves, each incloſes his property with a hedge. Some lands are reſerved for a common. It is thus, that New England is continually aggrandizing itſelf, without diſcontinuing to make one complete and well conſtituted province.

Though the colony is ſituated in the midſt of the temperate zone, yet the climate is not ſo mild as that of ſome European provinces, which are under the ſame parallel : the winters are longer, and more cold ; the ſummers ſhorter, and more hot. The ſky is commonly clear, and the rains more plentiful than laſting. The air has grown purer, ſince its circulation has been made free, by cutting down the woods ; the malignant vapours, which at firſt carried off ſome of the inhabitants, are no longer complained of. The country (as is above ſaid) is divided into four provinces, which from the beginning, had no connection with one another ; the neceſſity of maintaining an armed force againſt the ſavages, obliged them to form a confederacy in 1643, at which time they took the name of the United Colonies ; in conſequence of that league, two deputies from each eſtabliſhment uſed to meet, in a ſtated place, to deliberate upon the common affairs of New England, according to the inſtructions they had received from the aſſembly, by which they were ſent. This aſſociation controlled in no one point the right which every individual had, of acting as he pleaſed, without either the permiſſion or approbation of the mother country ; all the ſubmiſſion of theſe provinces conſiſted in vague acknowledgement of the kings of Britain for their ſovereign. So ſlight a dependence diſpleaſed Charles II. The province of Maſſachuſetſbay, which though the ſmalleſt, was the richeſt and moſt populous of the four, being

being guilty of ſome miſdemeanours againſt government, the king ſeized that opportunity of taking away its charter in 1684; and it remained without one, till the revolution, when it received another, which, however, did not anſwer its claim or expectation.

The crown reſerved to itſelf, the right of nominating the governor, and appointing to all military employments, and to all principal poſts in the civil and juridical departments: allowing the people of the colony their legiſlative power. They gave the governor a negative voice, and the command of the troops, which ſecured him a ſufficient influence, to enable him to maintain the prerogative of the mother country in all its force. The provinces of Connecticut and Rhode Iſland, by timely ſubmiſſion, prevented the puniſhment that of Maſſachuſets had incurred, and retained their original charter; that of New Hampſhire had been always regulated by the ſame mode of adminiſtration, as the province of Maſſachuſetſbay. The ſame governor preſided over the whole colony, but with regulations adapted to the conſtitution of each province. According to the moſt exact calculations, the population of New England is computed at four hundred thouſand inhabitants, which are more numerous to the ſouth, than the north of the colony, where the ſoil is leſs fertile. Among ſuch a number of citizens, there are few proprietors wealthy enough to leave the care of their plantations to ſtewards or farmers; moſt of them are planters in eaſy circumſtances, who live upon their eſtates, and are buſied in the labours of the field: this equality of fortune, joined to their religious principles, and to the nature of the government, gives this people a more republican caſt, than is to be obſerved in the other colonies.

None of our beſt fruits have degenerated in New England. It is even ſaid that the apple is improved, at leaſt

it has multiplied exceedingly, and made cyder a more common drink, than in any other part of the world; all our roots and garden ſtuff have had the ſame ſucceſs, but the ſeeds have not thriven quite ſo well: wheat is apt to be blighted, barley grows dry, and oats yield more ſtraw than grain. In default of theſe, the maize, which is uſually conſumed in making beer, is the reſource of the common people: there are large and fruitful meadows, which are covered with numerous flocks.

The arts, though carried to a greater degree of perfection in this colony, than in any of the others, have not made near the ſame progreſs as agriculture; there are not more than four or five manufactures of any importance. The firſt that was formed, was that for building of ſhips: which maintained, for a long time, a degree of reputation. The veſſels out of this dock were in great eſtimation, the materials of which they were conſtructed, being found much leſs porous, and much leſs apt to ſplit, than thoſe of the more ſouthern provinces. Since 1750, the numbers of them are conſiderably diminiſhed, becauſe the woods for building them have been little attended to, and uſed for other purpoſes: to prevent this inconvenience, it was propoſed to ſtop the cutting of any of them, within ten miles of the ſea; and we know not for what reaſon, this law, the neceſſity of which was ſo evident, was never put in force.

The diſtilling of rum has ſucceeded better than the building of ſhips: it was begun from the facility the New Englanders had, of importing large quantities of molaſſes from the Caribbees. The molaſſes were, at firſt, uſed in kind, for various purpoſes; by degrees they learnt to diſtil them; when made into rum, they ſupplied the neighbouring ſavages with it, as the Newfoundland fiſhermen did the other northern provinces, and ſailors who frequent the coaſt of Africa. The de-

degree of imperfection in which this art has ſtill remained in the colony, has not diminiſhed the ſale of it; becauſe they have always been able to afford the rum at a very low price.

The ſame reaſon has both ſupported and increaſed the manufacture of hats. Though limited, by the regulations of the mother country, to the internal conſumption of the colony, the merchants have found means to ſurmount theſe obſtacles, and to ſmuggle pretty large quantities of them into the neighbouring ſettlements.

This colony ſells no cloths, but it buys very few; the fleeces of its flocks are as long, though not quite ſo fine as the Engliſh ones, and make coarſe ſtuffs, which do extremely well for plain men who live in the country.

Some preſbyterians, who were driven from the north of Ireland, by the perſecutions, either of the government or of the clergy, firſt taught the New Englanders to cultivate hemp and flax, and to manufacture them: the linens made of them are ſince become one of the great reſources of the colony.

The mother country, whoſe political calculations have not always coincided with the high opinion entertained of her abilities, has omitted nothing to thwart theſe ſeveral manufactures. She did not perceive, that by this oppreſſive conduct of the government, thoſe of her ſubjects who were employed in clearing this conſiderable part of the new world, muſt be reduced to the alternative, either of abandoning ſo good a country, or procuring among themſelves, the things of general uſe and of immediate neceſſity. Indeed, even theſe reſources would not have been ſufficient to maintain them, if they had not had the good fortune and the addreſs to open to themſelves ſeveral other channels of ſubſiſtence,

the origin and progreſs of which we ſhall briefly mention.

The firſt reſource they met with from without, was in the fiſhery. It has been encouraged to ſuch a degree, that a regulation has taken place, by which every family, who ſhould declare that they had lived upon ſalt fiſh, for two days in the week during a whole year, ſhould be diſburdened of part of their tax. Thus commercial views enjoin abſtinence from meat to the proteſtants, in the ſame manner, as religion preſcribes it to the catholicks.

Mackarel is caught only in the ſpring, at the mouth of the Pentagouet, a conſiderable river, which empties itſelf in Fundy bay, toward the extremity of the colony. In the very centre of the coaſt, and near Boſton, the cod fiſh is always in ſuch plenty, that Cape Cod, notwithſtanding the ſterility of its ſoil, is one of the moſt populous parts of the country. Not content, however, with the fiſh caught in its own latitudes, New England ſends every year, about two hundred veſſels, from 35 to 40 tons each, to the Great Bank, to Newfoundland, and to Cape Breton, which commonly make three voyages a ſeaſon, and bring back, at leaſt, a hundred thouſand quintals of cod. Beſides, there are larger veſſels which ſail from the ſame ports, and exchange proviſions for the produce of the fiſhery of thoſe Engliſh, who are ſettled in theſe regions. All this cod is afterwards diſtributed in the ſouthern parts of Europe and America.

This is not the only article, with which the iſlands in the new world are ſupplied by New England: it furniſhes them, beſides, horſes, oxen, hogs, ſalt meat, butter, tallow, cheeſe, flour, biſcuit, Indian corn, peaſe, fruits, cyder, hemp, flax, and woads of all kinds; the ſame commodities paſs into the iſlands belonging

longing to the other nations: Honduras, Surinam, and other parts of the American continent, open ſimilar markets to New England. This province alſo fetches wines and brandies from the Madeiras and the Azores, and pays for them with cod-fiſh and corn.

Britain has long been in uſe to receive from this colony, yards and maſts for the royal navy, planks, pot-aſhes, pitch, tar, turpentine, a few furs, and in years of ſcarcity, ſome corn: theſe cargoes come home in ſhips built by Britiſh merchants, or bought by them of ſhip-builders, who build upon ſpeculation. Beſides the trade New England makes of her own productions, ſhe has appropriated great part of the conveying trade between North and South America, in conſequence of which, the New Englanders are looked upon as the brokers of that part of the world.

It is long ſince New England had trade enough to employ conſtantly ſix thouſand ſailors; her marine, before ſhaking off the Britiſh government, conſiſted of five hundred large veſſels, which carried all together forty thouſand tons burden, beſides a great number of ſmaller veſſels for fiſhing and for the coaſting trade, which are ſpread all over the coaſt. Almoſt all of them load and unload at Boſton.

New-York,

IS ſituated between 40 and 46 degrees north latitude; and 72 and 76 degrees weſt longitude; it is bounded on the ſouth and ſouth weſt by Hudſon's and Delaware rivers, which divide it from New Jerſey and Pennſylvania, on the eaſt and north eaſt by New England, and the Atlantic

Atlantic ocean, and on the north weſt by Canada. This province, including the iſlands of New York, Long Iſland, and Staten Iſland, is divided into the ten following counties, New-York, Albany, Ulſter, Dutcheſs, Orange, Weſt Cheſter, King's, Queen's, Suffolk and Richmond; the city is about a mile long and half a mile broad. Many of the houſes are very elegant, built of ſtone and brick; the inhabitants are computed at 15,000; at an average of three years its exports are ſaid to amount to 326,000 l. and its imports from Britain to 537,000l. One ſpecial reaſon for the flouriſhing ſtate of New York is, the inhabitants of the province give themſelves up entirely to all the labours which its ſituation could require or encourage; a climate much milder than that of New England, a ſoil ſuperior to it for the cultivation of corn, and equally fit for that of every other production, ſoon enabled it to vie ſucceſsfully with an eſtabliſhment that had got the ſtart of it in all its productions and in all the markets. If it was not equal in its manufactures, this inferiority was amply compenſated by a fur trade vaſtly more conſiderable. Theſe means of proſperity, united to a very great degree of toleration in religious matters, have raiſed its population to more than one hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants, five and twenty thouſand of whom conſtitute the provincial militia. The province may expect to ſee her productions doubly increaſed, if the two thirds of its territory, which ſtill remain uncleared, ſhould yield as much as the one third which has already been cultivated. It is impoſſible to ſay what influence theſe riches may have on the minds of the inhabitants. Mean time to their honour it can juſtly be ſaid, they have not yet abuſed thoſe they have hitherto acquired.

Both the banks of Hudſon's river are laid out in the plantations of the colony, which enliven and decorate theſe

theſe borders. It is upon this magnificent canal, which is navigable day and night in all ſeaſons, and where the tide runs up above a hundred and ſixty miles in the land, that every thing that is intended for the general market is embarked in veſſels of forty or fifty tons burden. The ſtaple itſelf, which is near the ſea, is extremely well ſituated for receiving all the merchandiſe of the province, and all that comes from Long iſland, which is only ſeparated from the continent by a narrow channel.

This iſland, which takes its name from its figure, is one hundred and twenty miles in length, by twelve in breadth. It was formerly very famous for the great number of whales and ſea calves taken in its neighbourhood; but whether it is that the frequent fiſheries have driven away theſe animals, which generally ſeek quiet ſeas and deſert ſhores, they have diſappeared, and another branch of induſtry has been found to ſupply their loſs. As the paſtures are moſt excellent, the breeding of all kinds of cattle, and particularly horſes, has been much attended to, without neglecting any other branch of cultivation; all their different riches flow to the principal market, which is alſo increaſed by productions brought from a greater diſtance; ſome parts of New England and New Jerſey find their account in pouring their ſtores into this magazine.

This mart is a very conſiderable town, which at preſent has the ſame name as the colony, and is called New York: It was formerly built by the Dutch, who gave it the name of New Amſterdam, in an Iſland called Manohatton, which is fourteen leagues long and not very broad. In 1756, its population amounted to 10,468 whites and 2,275 negroes; there is not any town where the air is better, or where there is a more general appearance of eaſe and plenty; both the public edifices

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and private houſes convey the idea of ſolidity united to conveniency. If the city, however, were attacked with vigour, it would hardly hold out twenty four hours, having no other defence of the road or the town, except a bad fort and a ſtone retrenchment.

New York, which ſtands at the diſtance of two miles from the mouth of Hudſon's river, has properly ſpeaking, neither port or baſon; but it does not want either, becauſe its road is ſufficient; it is from thence that 250 or 300 ſhips are diſpatched every year for the different ports of Europe and America. England receives but a ſmall part of them, but they are the richeſt, becauſe they are thoſe whoſe cargo conſiſts in furs and beaver ſkins.

New Jerſey,

IS ſituate between 39 and 43 degrees north latitude, and 74 and 76 degrees weſt longitude. It is bounded on the weſt and ſouth eaſt by Delaware river and bay, on the ſouth eaſt and eaſt by the Atlantic ocean, and by the ſound, which ſeparates Staten Iſland from the continent, and Hudſon's river on the north. It is divided into 13 counties, viz. Middleſex, Monmouth, Eſſex, Somerſet, Bergen, Burlington, Glouceſter, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May, Huntingdon, Morris and Suſſex. It is part of that vaſt track of land given by Charles the ſecond to his brother the Duke of York. By an account lately publiſhed, the number of inhabitants are about 100,000. There are no leſs than 172 places of public worſhip in this province; in the year 1751, the inhabitants at their own expence completed the fitting out thirty eight veſſels, bound to Europe or to

to the ſouthern iſles of America. Theſe veſſels carried 188,000 quintals of biſcuit, ſix thouſand four hundred and twenty four barrels of flour, ſeventeen thouſand nine hundred and forty one buſhels of corn, three hundred and fourteen barrels of ſalt beef and pork, fourteen quintals of hemp, together with a pretty large quantity of hams, butter, beer, lintſeed, iron in bars, and wood for building. This province (as well as others in America) much wants an increaſe of inhabitants to aid in its improvements, and ſhare of its riches.

Pennſylvania,

IS ſituated between 74 and 81 degrees weſt long. and 39 and 44 degrees north lat. It is bounded by the country of the Iroquois, or five nations, on the north, by Delaware river on the eaſt, and by Maryland on the ſouth and weſt, and contains the following counties, viz. Philadelphia, Cheſter, Bucks, Berks, Northampton, Lancaſter, York, Cumberland, Bedford, Newcaſtle, Kent and Suſſex. This province is ſurrounded on all ſides by friends, and is peculiarly agreeable, by means of its natural advantages and the virtue of its inhabitants. Its coaſts, which are at firſt very narrow, extend gradually to 120 miles: and the breadth of it, which has no other limits than its population and culture, already comprehends 145 miles. The ſky of the colony is pure and ſerene; the climate, very wholeſome of itſelf, has been rendered ſtill more ſo by cultivation; the waters, equally ſalubrious and clear, always flow upon a bed of rock or ſand; the year is tempered by the regular return of the ſeaſons: winter, which begins in January, laſts till

till the month of March; as it is ſeldom accompanied with clouds or fogs, the cold is, generally ſpeaking, moderate; ſometimes, however, ſharp enough to freeze the largeſt river in one night. This revolution, which is as ſhort as it is ſudden, is occaſioned by the north weſt winds, which blow from the mountains and lakes of Canada. The ſpring is uſhered in by ſoft rains and gentle heat, which increaſes gradually till the end of June: the three autumnal months are commonly attended with no other inconvenience, but that of being ſometimes rainy.

Tho' the country is unequal, it is not leſs fertile: the ſoil in ſome places, conſiſts of a yellow black ſand, in others, it is gravelly, and ſometimes it is a greyiſh aſh upon a ſtony bottom: generally ſpeaking, it is a rich earth, particularly betweeen the rivulets, which, interſecting it in all directions, contribute more to the fertility of the country, than navigable rivers would.

When the Europeans came into the country, they found nothing in it but wood for building, and iron mines. In proceſs of time, by cutting down trees, and clearing the ground, they covered it with innumerable herds, with a great variety of fruits, with plantations of flax and hemp, with many kinds of vegetables, with every ſort of grain, and eſpecially with rye and maize, which a happy experience had ſhewn to be particularly proper to the climate: cultivation was carried on in all parts with ſuch vigour and ſucceſs, as excited the aſtoniſhment of all nations. What is moſt ediſying, and at the ſame time moſt extraordinary, is the harmony that ſubſiſts between all the ſects eſtabliſhed in Pennſylvania, notwithſtanding the difference of their religious opinions: tho' they are not all of the ſame church, they all love and cheriſh one another as children of the ſame father; they have always continued to live like brothers,

brothers, becauſe they had the liberty of thinking like men. It is to this delightful harmony that muſt be attributed more particularly the rapid progreſs of the colony.

At the beginning of the year 1766, its population amounted to 150,000 white people; the number muſt have been conſiderably increaſed from that period, ſince it is doubled every fifteen years, according to Dr Franklin's calculations; there are ſtill thirty thouſand blacks in the province, who meet with leſs ill uſage in this province than in the others. A circumſtance, not eaſily to be believed, is, that the ſubjection of the negroes has not corrupted the morals of their maſters; their manners are ſtill pure in Pennſylvania. Is this ſingular advantage to be aſcribed to the climate, the laws, the religion, the emulation conſtantly ſubſiſting between the different ſects, or to ſome other particular cauſe? let the reader determine this queſtion.

The Pennſylvanians are in general well made, and the women of an agreeable figure. As they ſooner become mothers than in Europe, they ſooner ceaſe breeding; the weather, tho' ſometimes variable, has no dangerous influence upon the vegetables, nor is it deſtructive to their harveſts; there is a conſtant plenty, and an univerſal appearance of eaſe. The oeconomy which is particularly attended to in Pennſylvania does not prevent both ſexes from being well clothed; and their food is ſtill preferable in its kind to their clothing: the families, whoſe circumſtances are the leaſt eaſy, have all of them bread, meat, cyder, beer, and rum. A very great number are able to afford to drink conſtantly French and Spaniſh wines, punch, and even drinks of a higher price. The abuſe of theſe ſtrong drinks is leſs frequent than in other places, but is not without examples.

The pleaſing view of this abundance is never diſturb-

ed by the melancholy ſight of poverty. There are no poor in Pennſylvania. All thoſe whoſe birth or fortune has left them without reſources, are ſuitably provided for from the public treaſury. The ſpirit of benevolence is carried ſtill further, and is extended even to the moſt engaging hoſpitality; a traveller is welcome to ſtop in any place, without the apprehenſion of giving the leaſt uneaſy ſenſation, except that of his departure. The happineſs of this colony is not diſturbed by the oppreſſive burden of taxes. In 1766, they did not amount to more than 12,256l 2s 6d. Moſt of them, even thoſe that were deſigned to repair the damages of war, were to ceaſe in 1772. The Pennſylvanians, happy poſſeſſors of a country that uſually tenders them twenty or thirty fold for whatever they lay out upon it, are not reſtrained by fear from the propagation of their ſpecies; there is hardly an unmarried perſon to be met with in the country; Marriage is only the more happy and the more reverenced for it. The freedom as well as the ſanction of it depends upon the choice of the parties: they chooſe the lawyer and the prieſt rather as witneſſes, than miniſters, of the engagement. Whenever two lovers meet with any oppoſition, they go off on horſeback, the man gets behind his miſtreſs, and in this ſituation they preſent themſelves before the magiſtrate, where the girl declares ſhe has run away with her lover, and that they are come to be married. So ſolemn an avowal cannot be rejected, nor has any perſon a right to give them any moleſtation. In all other caſes paternal authority is exceſſive.

Tho' there are ſeveral villages, and even ſome cities in the colony, moſt of the inhabitants may be ſaid to live ſeparately, as it were within their families. Every proprietor of land has his houſe in the midſt of a large plantation, entirely ſurrounded with quickſet hedges; of courſe each pariſh is near 12 leagues in circumference.

But

But from whence does Pennſylvania draw the materials of her own conſumption, and in what manner does ſhe contrive to be abundantly furniſhed with them? with the flax and hemp that are produced at home, and the cotton ſhe procures from South America, ſhe fabricates a great quantity of ordinary linen; and with the wool that comes from Europe, ſhe manufactures many coarſe cloths; whatever her own induſtry is not able to furniſh, ſhe purchaſes with the produce of her territory. Her ſhips carry over to the Britiſh, Dutch, French and Daniſh iſlands, biſcuit, flour, butter, ſalt meat, cyder, beer, and all ſorts of wood for building. The cotton, ſugar, coffee, brandy and money they receive in exchange, are ſo many materials for a freſh commerce with the European nations, as well as with other colonies. The Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, Spain and Portugal, open an advantageous market for the corn and wood of Pennſylvania, which they purchaſe with wine and piaſtres. The Britiſh merchants have been in uſe to receive from Pennſylvania iron, flax, leather, furs, linſeed oil, maſts, and yards; for which is returned thread, linens, hard-ware, and other articles of luxury or neceſſity. In 1723, Britain ſent over goods to Pennſylvania, only to the value of 10,937l 10s. For ſeveral years before the fatal (for Britain) American war, Britain was in uſe annually to ſend to Pennſylvan a goods to the amount of 437,500 l. Other colonies which enjoy almoſt excluſively ſome branches of trade, ſuch as rice, tobacco and indigo, muſt have grown rich rapidly. Pennſylvania, whoſe riches are founded on agriculture and the increaſe of her flocks, will acquire them more gradually; but her proſperity will be fixed upon a more firm and permanent baſis.

The annual exports of Pennſylvania may be valued at 25,000 tons. It receives 400 ſhips, and fits out a

bout an equal number. They all, or almoſt all, come into PHILADELPHIA, which is the capital, from whence they are alſo diſpatched.

This famous city, whoſe very name recalls every human feeling, is ſituated at the conflux of the Delaware and the Sckuylkill, about 120 miles from the ſea. Penn, who deſtined it for the metropolis of a great empire, deſigned it to be one mile in breadth, and two in length, between the rivers; from its preſent and rationally apparent increaſing and flouriſhing ſtate, it appears it will ſoon cover the extent of ground, contained in the original plan: hitherto, they have bui t only upon the banks of the Delaware, but without giving up the ideas of the legiſlator, or deviating from his excellent ſcheme. Theſe precautions are highly proper; Philadelphia muſt become the moſt conſiderable city of America, becauſe it is impoſſible that the colony ſhould not improve greatly, and its productions muſt paſs through the harbour of the capital, before they arrive at the ſea. The ſtreets of Philadelphia, which are all regular, are in general fifty feet broad; two principal ones are a hundred: on each ſide of them, there are foot paths guarded by poſts, placed at different diſtances. The houſes, each of which has its garden and orchard, are commonly two ſtories high; and are built either of brick, or of a kind of ſoft ſtone, which grows hard by being expoſed to the air. Till very lately the walls had but little thickneſs, becauſe they were only to be covered with a very light kind of wood: ſince the diſcovery of ſlate quarries, the walls have acquired a ſolidity proportioned to the weight of the ſlate roofs. The preſent buildings have received an additional decoration, from a kind of marble of different colours, which is found about a mile out of town; of this they make tables, chimney pieces, and other houſehold furniture: beſides which, it is become

come a pretty conſiderable object of commerce with the greateſt part of America.

Theſe valuable materials would be more commonly found in the houſes, if they were not laviſhed on the churches; every ſect has its own church, and ſome of them have ſeveral. The town-houſe is a building held in as much veneration, though not ſo much frequented, as the churches: it is conſtructed in the moſt ſumptuous magnificence; it is there, that the legiſlators of the colony aſſemble every year, and more frequently, if neceſſary, to ſettle every thing relative to public buſineſs; the whole of which is ſubmitted to the authority of the nation, in the perſons of its repreſentatives. Next to the town houſe, is a moſt elegant library, which owes its exiſtence to the care of the eminent and learned Dr. Franklin; in it are found the beſt Engliſh, French, and Latin authors. It is only open to the public on Saturdays; thoſe who have founded it, have a free acceſs to it the whole year; the reſt pay a trifle for the loan of the books, and a forfeit if they are not returned in due time: this little fund, conſtantly accumulating, is appropriated to the increaſe of the library, to which have been lately added, in order to make it more uſeful, ſome mathematical and philoſophical inſtruments, with a very fine cabinet of natural hiſtory.

The college, which is intended to prepare the mind for the attainment of all the ſciences, was founded in 1749; at firſt, it only initiated the youth in the Belles Lettres; in 1764, a claſs of medicine was eſtabliſhed there: knowledge of every kind, and adepts in the ſciences will increaſe, in proportion as the lands, which are become their patrimony, ſhall yield a greater produce. If ever deſpotiſm, ſuperſtition, or war, ſhould plunge Europe again into that ſtate of barbariſm, from whence the chriſtian proteſtant religion, philoſophy, and the

the arts, have drawn it, the ſacred fire will be kept alive in Philadelphia, and come from thence to enlighten the world. This city is amply ſupplied with every aſſiſtance human nature can require, and with all the reſources induſtry can make uſe of: its quays, the principal of which is 200 feet wide, preſent a ſuite of ware-houſes, and receſſes ingeniouſly contrived for ſhip-building; ſhips of 500 tons may land there without any difficulty, except in the time of froſt; there they load the merchandize, which has either come down the Sckuylkill and Delaware, or along roads better than are to be met with in moſt parts of Europe. Police has made a greater progreſs in this part of the new world, than among the moſt ancient nations of the old. It is impoſſible to determine preciſely the population of Philadelphia, as the bills of mortality are not kept with proper exactneſs, and there are ſeveral ſects who do not chriſten their children: it is appears a fact, however, that in 1766 it contained 20,000 inhabitants.

As moſt of them are employed in the ſale of the productions of the colony, and in ſupplying it with what they draw from abroad, it is impoſſible that their fortunes ſhould not be very conſiderable; and they muſt increaſe ſtill further, in proportion as the cultivation advances in a country where, hitherto, not above one ſixth of the land has been cleared.

Virginia,

IS ſituated between 76 and 80 degrees weſt longitude, and 37 and 40 degrees north latitude. It is bounded by the river Patowmack on the north eaſt, by the Atlantic

Atlantic ocean on the eaſt, by Carolina on the ſouth, and by the river Miſſiſſippi on the weſt. Virginia is divided into 25 counties, each of which ſends two deputies. James-town and the College have each of them ſeparately the right of naming one, which makes up in all 25. Every inhabitant poſſeſſed of a freehold, except only women and minors, has the right of election, and that of being elected: though there is no time fixed by law for holding the general aſſembly, it commonly meets either once a year, or once in every two years; and the meeting is very ſeldom deferred till three. The frequency of theſe meetings is infallibly kept up, by the precaution of granting ſupplies only for a ſhort time. All acts paſſed in their aſſemblies, were in uſe to be ſent over to the king of Britain to receive his ſanction. The number of white people in Virginia is ſuppoſed to be 100,000, and the blacks as many.

If Maryland were re-united to Virginia, as their common intereſts ſeems to require. no difference could be found between the two ſettlements. They are ſituated between Pennſylvania and Carolina, and occupy the great ſpace that extends from the ſea to the Apalachian mountains. The air, which is damp on the coaſt, becomes light, pure and ſubtile, as one approaches the monntains: the ſpring and autumn months are of an excellent temperature; in ſummer there are ſome days exceſſively hot, and in winter ſome extremely cold: but neither of theſe exceſſes laſts above a week at a time. The moſt diſagreeable circumſtance in the climate, is the abundance of noxious inſects that are found there.

All the domeſtic animals multiply prodigiouſly, and all ſorts of fruits, trees, and vegetables ſucceed there extremely well. There is the beſt corn in all America; the ſoil, which is rich and fertile in the low land, is always good, even thoſe places where it becomes more ſandy;

ſandy; more irregular than it is deſcribed by ſome travellers, but tolerable, even till one comes near the mountains.

From theſe reſervoirs an incredible number of rivers flow, moſt of which are ſeparated only by an interval of five or ſix miles. Beſides the fertility which theſe waters impart to the country they paſs through, they alſo make it infinitely more convenient for trade, than any other part of the new world, from facilitating the communication.

Moſt of theſe rivers have a very extenſive inland navigation for merchant ſhips, and ſome of them for men of war. One may go near two hundred miles up the Potowmack, about eighty up the James, the York, and the Rapahannacks, and upon the other rivers to a diſtance that varies according as the cataracts are more or leſs diſtant from the mouths. All theſe navigable canals, formed by nature, meet in the bay of Cheſapeak, which has from ſeven to nine fathom water, both at its entrance and in its whole extent. It reaches above two hundred miles in the inland parts of the country, and is about twelve miles in its mean breadth; tho' it is full of ſmall iſlands, moſt of them covered with wood, it is by no means dangerous, and ſo large, that all the ſhips in the univerſe might ride there with eaſe. So uncommon an advantage has prevented the formation of any large towns in the two colonies; and accordingly, the inhabitants. who were aſſured that they might embark their commodities without going from their own houſes, have diſperſed themſelves upon the borders of the ſeveral rivers; In this ſituation, they found, and find all the pleaſures of a rural life, united to all the eaſe that trade brings into cities; they found the facility of extending their cultivation in a country that had no bounds, united to all the aſſiſtance which the fertilization of the lands

lands receives from commerce. But Britain ſuffered a double inconvenience from this diſperſion of the coloniſts; firſt becauſe her ſailors were long abſent, by being obliged to collect their cargoes from theſe ſcattered habitations; and ſecondly, becauſe their ſhips are expoſed to injury from thoſe dangerous inſects, which in the months of June and July infeſt all the rivers of this diſtant region. The miniſtry has therefore neglected no means of engaging the coloniſts to eſtabliſh ſtaples for the reception of their commodities. The conſtraint of the laws has not had more effect than perſuaſion; at length, a few years ago, forts were ordered to be built at the entrance of every river, to protect the loading and unloading of the ſhips. If this project had not failed in the execution, from the want of a ſufficient fund, it is probable that the inhabitants would have collected imperceptibly round each of theſe fortreſſes. But it may ſtill be queſtioned, whether this circumſtance would not have proved fatal to population, and whether agriculture might not have loſt as much as commerce would have gained by it.

Maryland,

IS ſituated between 75 and 80 degrees weſt longitude, and 37 and 40 degrees north latitude; it is bounded by Pennſylvania on the north, the Atlantic ocean on the eaſt, by Virginia on the ſouth, and by the Apalachian mountains on the weſt. It is divided into fourteen different counties, indented with a vaſt number of navigable rivers and creeks. In deſcribing Virginia, a deſcription of Maryland is in effect given; however it may

not be amiſs to ſay, of all the countries in which tobacco has been planted, there is none where it has anſwered ſo well as in Maryland and Virginia. As it was the only occupation of the firſt planters, they often cultivated much more than they could find a ſale for; they were then obliged to ſtop the growth of plantations in Virginia, and to burn a certain number of plants in every habitation throughout Maryland. But in proceſs of time, the uſes of this herb became ſo general, that they are obliged to increaſe the number both of whites and blacks who are employed in preparing it. At preſent, each of the colonies furniſhes nearly an equal quantity; that from Virginia, which is the mildeſt, the moſt perfumed and the deareſt, is conſumed in England and in the ſouthern parts of Europe; that of Maryland is fitter for the northern climates, from its cheapneſs and even from its coarſeneſs, which makes it better adapted to leſs delicate organs. Virginia always pays 1l 19s 4½d freight for every barrel of tobacco, and Maryland only 1l 14s 5½d. This difference is owing to the leſs value of the merchandiſe, and to the greater expedition made in loading it. The navigation of the two colonies employs two hundred and fifty ſhips, which make up 30,000 tons. They take in a hundred thouſand barrels of tobacco from the two colonies, which at the rate of eight hundred pounds a barrel, makes eighty millions of pounds weight.

North and South Carolina with Georgia,

ARE ſituated between 76 and 91 degrees weſt longitude, and 30 and 37 degrees north latitude. They

They are bounded by Virginia on the north, by the Atlantic ocean on the eaſt, by the river St. John, which ſeparates Georgia from Florida, on the ſouth, and by the Miſſiſſippi on the weſt. North Carolina contains the counties of Albemarle, Bath, and part of Clarendon. South Carolina contains part of Clarendon, Craven, Berkley, Calleton and Granville. South diviſion contains only Georgia. The only town in either of the Carolinas worthy of notice, is Charleſtown, the metropolis of South Carolina, which for ſize, beauty, and trade may be conſidered as one of the firſt in what was once Britiſh America. South Carolina alone employs 140 ſhips, while that of the other two does not employ 60. Its exports to Britain of native commodities, on an average of three years, amount to more than 395,000l annual value, and its imports at 365,000 l. the exports of North Carolina at 68,000 l and its imports at 18,000 l the trade of Georgia in its exports to about 74,000 l and its imports to 49,000 l.

There is not, perhaps, throughout the new world, a climate to be compared with that of Carolina. The two ſeaſons of the year, which, for the moſt part, only moderate the exceſſes of the two others, are here delightful. The heats of the ſummer are not exceſſive; and the cold of the winter is only felt in the mornings and evenings. The fogs, which are always common upon a coaſt of any length, are diſperſed before the middle of the day.

The ſoil of Carolina is very various. On the coaſt and about the mouths of the rivers, which fall into the ſea, it is covered with moraſſes; or made up of a pale light ſandy earth, which produces nothing. In one part it is barren to an extreme, and in another, among the numberleſs ſtreams that divide the country, it is exceſſively fruitful. At a diſtance from the coaſts, there are

found

found ſometimes large waſtes of white ſand, which produce nothing but pines; at others there are lands, where the oak and the walnut trees announce fertility. Theſe variations ceaſe when you get into the inland parts, and the country every where is agreeable and rich.

Admirably adapted as theſe ſpots are for the purpoſes of cultivation, the province does not want others equally favourable for the breeding of cattle. Thouſands of horned cattle are raiſed here, which go out in the morning, without a herdſman, to feed in the woods, and return home at night of their own accord. Their hogs, which are ſuffered to fatten themſelves in the ſame manner, are ſtill more numerous and much better in their kind. But mutton degenerates there both in the fleſh and wool; for this reaſon it is leſs common.

In 1723, the whole colony conſiſted of no more than four thouſand white people, and thirty two thouſand blacks. Its exportation to other parts of America and to Europe did not exceed 216,562l. 10s, ſince that time it has acquired a degree of ſplendor which it owes intirely to enjoyment of liberty.

South Carolina, though it hath ſucceded in eſtabliſhing a conſiderable barter trade with ſavages, hath gained a manufacture of linens, by means of the French refugees, and invented a new kind of ſtuff by mixing the ſilk it produces with its wool; yet is its progreſs principally to be attributed to the produce of rice and indigo.

There is ſcarce one twentieth part of the territory belonging to the two Carolinas that is cleared; and at this time, the only cultivated ſpots are thoſe which are the moſt ſandy and neareſt the ſea: the reaſon why the coloniſts have not ſettled farther back in the country, is, that of ten navigable rivers, there is not one that will admit ſhipping higher than ſixty miles. This inconvenience is not to be removed, but by making canals or

roads;

roads; and works of that kind require ſo many hands, and ſo much expence and knowledge, that the hopes of ſuch an improvement are ſtill very diſtant.

In 1754, there were exported from South Carolina, 759 barrels of turpentine, 2969 of pitch or roſin, 416 of beef, 1560 of pork, 16,400 buſhels of Indian corn, 9162 of peaſe, 4180 tanned hides, 1200 in the hair, 1,140000 planks, 260000 joiſts, 385000 feet of timber, 882 hogſheads of wild deers ſkins, 104682 barrels of rice, 216984 pounds of indigo.

In the ſame year, North Carolina exported 61528 barrels of tar, 12055 of pitch, 10429 of turpentine, 762330 planks, 2647 feet of timber, 61500 buſhels of wheat, 10,000 of peaſe, 300 barrels of beef and pork, 100 hogſheads of tobacco, 10,000 hundred weight of tanned hides, and 30,000 ſkins of different kinds.

In the above account, there is not a ſingle article that has not been conſiderably increaſed ſince that time: ſeveral of them have been doubled; and the moſt valuable of all, the indigo, has increaſed to three times the quantity.

Some productions of North Carolina are exported to Europe and the Caribbees, tho' there is no ſtaple town to receive them, and that Edenton, the ancient capital of the province, as well as that which has been built in lieu of it upon the river Weus, can ſcarce be conſidered as ſmall villages. The largeſt of, and moſt valuable parts of its exports is conveyed to Charleſtown, to increaſe the riches of South Carolina.

This town lies between the two navigable rivers, Cooper and Aſhley, ſurrounded by the moſt beautiful plantations of the colony, of which it is the center and capital; it is well built, interſected with ſeveral agreeable ſtreets, and its fortifications are tolerably regular. The large fortunes that have been made there, from the acceſſion and circulation of its trade, muſt neceſſarily have

have had ſome influence upon the manners of the people: of all the towns in North America, it is the one in which the conveniences of luxury are moſt to be met with. But the diſadvantage its road labours under, of not being able to admit of ſhips of above 200 tons, will make it loſe its preſent ſplendor: it will be deſerted for PORT ROYAL, which admits veſſels of all kinds into its harbour, and in great numbers. A ſettlement has already been formed there, which is continually increaſing, and may moſt probably meet with the greateſt ſucceſs. Beſides the productions of North and South Carolina, that will naturally come to its market, it will alſo receive thoſe of Georgia, a colony that has lately been eſtabliſhed near it.

Canada, or, the Province of Quebec,

IS ſituated between 61 and 81 degrees weſt longitude and 45 and 52 degrees north latitude. The French comprehended under the name of Canada, a very large territory, taking into their claim part of New Scotland, New England, and New York, on the eaſt; and to the weſt, extending it as far as the Pacific ocean: that part, however, which they have been able to cultivate and which bore the face of a colony, lay chiefly upon the banks of the river St Laurence, and the numerous ſmall rivers falling into that ſtream. This being reduced by the Britiſh arms, in the war which ended 1763, is now formed into a Britiſh colony, called the Province of Quebec QUEBEC the capital, not only of this province but of all Canada, is ſituated at the confluence of the rivers St Laurence and St Charles, about

326 miles from the ſea; it is built on a rock, partly of marble, and partly of ſlate: the town is divided into an upper and lower town, which is covered with a regular and beautiful citadel, in which the governor reſides, and the number of inhabitants are computed at 12 or 13,000: the province of Canada is centered in three cities. Quebec, the capital of Canada, is 1500 leagues diſtant from France, and 120 leagues from the ſea. It is built in form of an amphitheatre, on a peninſula, made by the rivers St Laurence and St Charles; and commands a moſt pleaſant proſpect over extenſive fields, which ſerve to enrich it; and a very ſafe road that will admit upwards of 200 ſhips: it is three miles in circumference. Two thirds of this circuit are defended by the water and the rocks, which are a better ſecurity than the fortifications erected on the ramparts that cut the peninſula. The houſes are tolerably well conſtructed; it is the center of commerce and ſeat of government for the province.

The city of the Trois Rivieres, built ten years later than Quebec, and ſituated 30 leagues higher, was raiſed with a view of encouraging the trade with the northern Indians. But this ſettlement, though brilliant at firſt, never attained to more than 1500 inhabitants, becauſe the fur trade was ſoon diverted from this market, and carried entirely to Montreal.

MONTREAL is an iſland, 10 leagues long, and 4 broad almoſt, formed by the river St Laurence, ſixty leagues above Quebec. Of all the adjacent country, this is the mildeſt, the moſt pleaſant, and moſt fruitful ſpot. A few ſcattered houſes erected by chance in 1640, advanced to a regular built town, which contained 4000 inhabitants: at firſt it lay expoſed to the inſults of the ſavages; but was afterwards incloſed with ſlight paliſades, and then with a wall about 15 feet high,

topped

topped with battlements: it fell into decay, when the inroads of the Iroquois obliged the French to erect forts higher up the country, to secure the fur trade.

The truly fertile fields begin near the capital, and they grew better as one drew nearer to Montreal. Nothing can be more beautiful to the eye, than the rich borders of that long and broad canal; woods scattered here and there, decorate the tops of the grassy mountains; the meadows covered with flocks, fields crowned with ripening corn, small streams of water flowing down to the river, churches and castles seen at intervals through the trees, exhibit a succession of the most enchanting prospects. These would have been still more delightful, if the edict of 1745 had been observed, which forbad the colonist from dividing his plantations, unless they were an acre and a half in front, and 30 or 40 acres in depth. Indolent heirs would not then have torn in pieces the inheritance of their fathers: they would have been compelled to form new plantations; and vast spaces of fallow land would no longer have separated rich and cultivated plains.

Nature herself directed the labours of the husbandman, and taught him to avoid watery and sandy grounds, and all those where the pine, the fir-tree, and the cedar, grew solitary; but wherever he found a soil covered with maple, oak, beech, hornbeam, and small cherry trees, there he might reasonably expect an increase of twenty to one in his wheat, and thirty to one in his Indian corn, without the trouble of manuring.

All the plantations, though of different extents, were sufficient for the wants of their respective owners. There were few of them that did not yield maize, barley, hemp, tobacco, pulse, and pot herbs, in great plenty and excellent in their kind.

Most of the inhabitants have a score of sheep whose wool

wool is very valuable to them, ten or a dozen of milch cows, and five or ſix oxen for the plough. The cattle are ſmall, but their fleſh are excellent; and the common people there live much better than any of our farmers in Europe. Between the lakes Ontario and Erie, which both meaſure 300 leagues in circumference, lies a continent of 14 leagues. This land is interſected towards the middle by the famous fall of Niagara, which from its height, breadth, and ſhape, and from the quantity and impetuoſity of its waters juſtly is accounted the moſt wonderful cataract in the world.

Beyond the lake Erie, is an extent of land, diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Strait, which exceeds all Canada for the mildneſs of the climate, the beauty and variety of the proſpects, the richneſs of the ſoil, and the profuſion of game and fiſh. Nature has laviſhed an almoſt exuberant abundance of her ſweets, to enrich this delightful ſpot.

Genuine Copies of authentic Letters lately received from ſundry Perſons of eminent Character in America.

Philadelphia, Septr. 16th, 1783.

My dear Madam,

AFTER an abſence of eight years (every part of which has been crouded with great and intereſting events) I need not tell you that your letter gave me great pleaſure. In anſwer to your queries, I think I am ſafe in aſſuring you that your plan of buſineſs will anſwer extremely well at preſent in this country. The

war has exhauſted us of ſervants. The Iriſh veſſels that have arrived here with them laſt ſummer have found an excellent market. Scotch ſervants will have a preference to the ſervants of any other country. The men of this world aſcribe this to a variety of cauſes; you and I, madam, aſcribe it very properly to their being ſo early and ſo perfectly taught the knowledge of the bible and the Weſtminſter confeſſion of faith. When you ſit down by our ſociable fireſide, I will tell you a hundred things that have paſt during the revolution. My head, heart and my hands have never known an idle hour ſince you left us; I have been a public drudge, but peace has now reſtored me to private life, and the excluſive cares of my profeſſion.

With reſpectful compliments to all friends, I am, dear Madam, your ſincere old friend and humble ſervant.

II. Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, 24th October* 1783.

AFTER a paſſage of nine weeks and two days I arrived here on the 6th of September, and have been ſince a good deal buſied, from the many circumſtances that engage the curioſity of a ſtranger in coming into a new world. Soon after my arrival I delivered yours, and ſome other letters to Dr. ——— who received me in a very friendly manner, and has ſince ſhown me very great civilities. A few days after my arrival I had the honour of being introduced by him to General Waſhington, and have ſince dined twice with his Excellency, once at his own houſe about 50 miles from this place, and the other time at Princetown. Notwithſtanding the great ideas which are entertained of his character in Europe, he ſeems to be ſtill more eſteemed and reſpected by thoſe who are in the moſt intimate habits with him.

him. I had introductory letters from England and Scotland to a good many members of Congreſs, and as far as I can judge, they appear to be extremely well qualified for the important concerns intruſted to their management. Some of thoſe eminent characters have no doubt been raiſed up and peculiarly endowed by providence for bringing about this great revolution, ſo important and beneficial to the liberties of mankind. If the various circumſtances of it were well told, it would do more to eſtabliſh and confirm the belief of a ſupreme overruling providence, than any other facts recorded in human hiſtory. Severals here I am told are going on with a hiſtory of the war, but I am afraid none who have yet undertaken it, have abilities equal to ſo great a work. I have been trying to perſuade Dr. —— to undertake it, who is certainly very well qualified; but his time is ſo much engroſſed, that it will not be in his power. The intereſts of religion and morality have ſuffered very much here by the war. There is great need for zealous faithful miniſters, as that deſcription of men is indeed very rare in this country. I hope you will not continue to object on account of the paſſage; after being accuſtomed to it for a few days, you will think no more of ſleeping in veſſels toſſed about on the waves than upon terra firma. I make no doubt you will bring a number of good republicans along with you; you may aſſure men of all profeſſions, that induſtry, ſobriety, and good ſenſe have a much better chance for ſucceſs here than at home; very large tracks of the beſt land in this country are ſtill unſettled, and the property can be had on very moderate terms, in ſome places as low as one ſhilling ſterling per acre. I do not think I am leſs ſincerely attached to Scotland than any perſon living in it; but that attachment does not conſiſt in a mere regard to theſe particles of earth and other materials which com-

poſe the ſoil of the country, or to that ſyſtem of monarchical and ariſtocratic tyranny which has for ſome time influenced its government, but to the people who live in it, and this kind of rational attachment is, I think, perfectly conſiſtent with my wiſhing them to exchange their ſituation for a better.

I have not yet ſeen much of the country, but ſo far as I have travelled, it is exceedingly pleaſant. I intend in a few days to take a jaunt to New York, Long Iſland, and ſome other parts of that ſtate; after being here ſome months longer, I will be better enabled to inform you of many circumſtances, which you muſt wiſh to know about. I beg the favour to hear from you as ſoon as poſſible, being very deſirous to know how matters go on with you, and with ſincere eſteem and regard, I remain, Dear Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

III. Dear Sir, *Philadelphia, December* 6, 1783.

Should you come to a determination to reſide in this country, I have no doubt but you will find it to anſwer the accounts you have received of it: indented ſervants would anſwer very well, a vaſt number have come in this fall from Ireland, and turned to good account. They are very much wanted, particularly tradeſmen. and girls from 10 to 18 years of age. As for articles of merchandize, none can come amiſs that are ſuitable to the ſeaſon, and purchaſed from the firſt hands. I ſhall do myſelf the pleaſure of writing you again ſoon, in the mean time remain,

Dear ſir, with much eſteem and reſpect,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Philadelphia,

IV. *Philadelphia, October* 9, 1783.

Dear Sir,

I Wrote you from Glaſgow, informing you of my proceedings ſince I left you, to which refers. I now adviſe you that I arrived here the firſt of Auguſt, and to my comfort, the ſecond day after landing here, I got into buſineſs as a firſt clerk in one of the beſt houſes in the city, where I have every opportunity to recover myſelf from that load, which would have cruſhed me all my life, if I had ſtayed in Scotland. This is one of the fineſt cities for trade in all America, but goods is very low here at preſent, being over ſtocked from all corners of the world, but Britiſh goods has the greateſt character here, and I am hopeful will ever flouriſh. I hope you will be ſo kind as to write me ſome of the news in your corner of the world, as I ſhall always be happy to hear from you and family, on account of your friendſhip; a friendſhip which no change of time or fortune ſhall ever efface from my remembrance! Meantime, with beſt wiſhes to all your good family,

I am, dear ſir,

Yours with regard, &c.

V. Dear Sir, *Annapolis, January* 5, 1784.

YOUR favour of 2d Auguſt, came to hand two days ago; it had been forwarded from Philadelphia, 140 miles by poſt: Mr —, who had been ſo good as take the charge of it, has arrived it ſeems in that city; I ſhall not fail to preſs an attention to his intereſt, on my friends in that place.

Ever ſince my return to America, I have been a citizen,

citizen and inhabitant of North Carolina, as much as a man may be ſaid to be, at leaſt during the war, to have inhabited the ſtate, who, in its ſervice has lived ſub jove through all months of the year, in it and the neighbouring ſtates, attending on the motions of your countrymen; often flying and ſometimes purſuing, for the whole did not conſtantly run in one direction. Moſt of my relations have been inhabitants of N. Carolina; my grand-father by the mother's ſide with ſome of his ſons, ſettled there near 40 years ago. You will hardly ſuppoſe, that a pretty numerous family has increaſed much, during the laſt years of the war; ours has paid the fate of ſeveral lives to the duties they owed their country and the rights of mankind. General Davidſon, the youngeſt of my uncles, fell at the Catawba; ſeveral of his nephews had taken the ſame path before him: Notwithſtanding of theſe circumſtances, I am perſuaded that none of us bears a ſpark of malice againſt the inhabitants of that country, under whoſe tyranny we have ſuffered ſo much. I moſt candidly wiſh, that one million of the ſons and daughters of affliction, who now inhabit Great Britain and Ireland, were ſafe removed to America; there is land enough for five times as many, and the earth, eſpecially in the ſouthern ſtates, with very little labour, will produce them food in abundance

The poſition I had once the honour to advance in your hearing, viz. "That mechanics on their arrival in "America, betake themſelves to the plough," muſt continue to be true for many years to come: our independence cannot, it at leaſt ſhould not alter this natural proceſs. Why does Great Britain import wine, hemp, and tobacco? Becauſe ſhe can buy theſe articles on eaſier terms than ſhe can make them. The world is open to our trade, and while our citizens by labouring

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ing in the field, can buy imported cloths cheaper than they can make them, and with leſs trouble, they will never ſubmit to be incumbered with manufacturing. Let me ſtate the caſe as it is in North Carolina; we have very little winter, and in moſt parts, the cattle can ſupport themſelves without the help of their owners: the plough is generally drawn by one horſe, and a man with one horſe, may eaſily raiſe—buſhels of Indian corn in the ſeaſon: he plants the corn in May, and it requires none of his attention after July, except a few days to gather it home in October or November. The ſeaſon for attending to his crop of wheat, is not infringed on by his other crop, which is excellent food for all ſorts of cattle, and as food for man, is generally preferred by the inhabitants to bread made of wheat. Our potatoe, a root which does not grow in Britain, and reſembles yours only in name, is raiſed with leſs than half the trouble, and a farmer will readily give the half of his peaſe to any man, woman, or child, who will be at the trouble to gather them: they grow without care among his Indian corn. In ſuch a country, I do not ſay that nobody would throw a ſhuttle, for cotton and flax grow therein to perfection, and women may ſpin if they pleaſe, for they ſeldom go out of doors to work; but in fact you ſeldom ſee a man on the loom. I believe there is hardly one in ten in our ſtate, ſo much as 15 years old, who cannot weave; the operation is there conſidered to every girl as familiar as ſaying her catechiſms is with you, and they learn it in leſs time, and with leſs reluctance. Is it that in ſuch a country as ours, the mind has a greater ſpring? or what is the cauſe? for it is certainly true, that our common people are more dexterous, and can turn their hands to a greater variety of employments than yours can do. There are few people in the ſouthern ſtates who cannot

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tan leather and make their own ſhoes; they can make a loom with all its apparatus, and any girl in the family can weave the cloth: moſt of them build their own houſes, which are of wood. You will ſay, that any European artiſt can work better at his particular trade. This cannot be diſputed, but we are very independent; would not any man exchange the toilſome life of a mechanic, for ſuch as our farmers enjoy, who ſeldom work 3 days in the week throughout the year. The buſineſs of a farmer in our country is extremely ſimple and eaſily learned; hence the tranſition of it is eaſy from any trade; after one month, the European who was bred to the anvil or the loom, performs his duty full as well in our fields as the man who had been bred to the plough. Had Mr —— been a ſhip-carpenter, a blackſmith, or houſe-carpenter, I ſhould have immediately given him very good employment, on condition he had removed to our ſtate. I wiſh to employ ſeveral people of thoſe different trades. If ſingle men or detached families come out from your country, they cannot fail to find a piece of ground to cultivate in any ſtate of the union; but if a large body of people ſhould wiſh to come together, ſo as to ſettle in one neighbourhood, they cannot be ſo readily ſupplied. Being principled againſt ſlaves, which is the moſt gainful people in the ſouthern ſtates, my property chiefly conſiſts of land, nor do I wiſh to have many tenants, leſt they ſhould not conſider themſelves perfectly free. To any number of perſons who would ſettle on the lands, I will ſell the fee ſimple of 30 or 40,000 acres; this lies together, and is towards the weſtern part of our ſtate: the buyers will receive it clear of all incumbrance, at ſix guineas the 100 acres. I very believe, that no country in the world is more healthy than the weſtern part of our ſtate; the winter is very inconſiderable, and the ſoil perfectly good.

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If you ſhould wiſh to have any information from the ſtates that come under my notice, I ſhall communicate it with pleaſure. You will be ſo good as direct to me at Edenton in N. Carolina, and if I ſhould not have returned to the ſtate, the letter will be apt to find me very ſoon. After Lord Cornwallis had finiſhed his courſe in the ſouthern ſtates, my country required that I ſhould exchange the duties of the field for thoſe of the cabinet. Near two years have elapſed ſince I took my ſeat in congreſs, but I expect to be relieved next ſpring, at leaſt that I may attend to my private affairs for a few months. Many years have paſſed ſince I have heard of my old friend Mr ——— of ——— --, or his ſon at Glaſgow. I received a letter lately from Mr ——— ———— Edinburgh. I have the honour to be, with the utmoſt conſideration,

Dear ſir,

Your moſt obedient
and very humble ſervt.

VI. Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia to his friend in Glaſgow, dated January 6th, 1784.

YOU know little of America, when you expreſs fears of their manufacturing ſoon for themſelves. I can aſſure you though 5000 weavers, or ſhoemakers, or any other trade, were to arrive here all at once, in three or four years time there would not be 200 of them remaining at their buſineſs, and that would be only the indolent and drunken fellows among them; for no ſooner does a tradeſman acquire 25 or 30l ſterling, which if he is ſober he may eaſily do in a twelvemonth, but leaving his own buſineſs he retires to the back ſettlements, and commences planter. From enquiry among

 the

merchants, and alſo from my own knowlege, I find tain will command the chief part of the trade to this ontinent the moſt parts; of the ſales here are Britiſh only. The French and Dutch merchants don't ſeem to be ſo anxious for our trade as the Britiſh.

VII. Extract of a letter from New York, dated the 20th February 1784.

THE war has greatly exhauſted this country of ſervants, and the want of migrations for ſo long a time has increaſed the value of labour exceedingly; and labourers and mechanicks, eſpecially the latter, will find this country to exceed their warmeſt wiſhes. Ship carpenters have been for a long time receiving two hard dollars per day, and ſome half a guinea, and other tradeſmen in proportion.

Weavers will not find work at their own employment, but may eaſily turn their hand to the plough.

With due eſteem, I am,
dear ſir, yours, &c.

P. S. Many letters have been received from tradeſmen, who have already gone out, which contain the moſt flattering accounts: and ſeveral more would have been inſerted here, but for ſwelling the Pamphlet to too large a ſize.

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